

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/987,638

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application, prior to entry of the present Amendment.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Salganicoff et al. (US 6,252,977). Claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. (US 5,621,457) in view of Ueno et al. (US 5,293,427).

Claims 3, 4 and 7-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

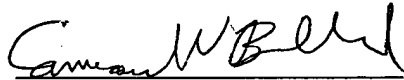
By the present Amendment, Applicant rewrites claims 4, 7, and 8 in independent form, amends claim 1 to include the features of claim 3, and cancels claim 3. These amendments are in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, claims 1, 2, and 4-12 are in form for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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